

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 05463 151433Z  
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02

L-01 NSAE-00 /032 W

-----110416 151516Z /43

R 151239Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5607

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 5463

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET US

SUBJECT: ALLEGED US CONSPIRACY AGAINST ETHIOPIA

1. DURING SEPT 13 DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH AF/E DIRECTOR POST AND NSC STAFF MEMBER HENZE (SEPTTEL), PMAC MEMBER IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN RELATIONS MAJOR BERHANU BAYEH SAID EPMG HAD RECEIVED VERY CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION THAT TWO US MILITARY OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI, MAJORS EDDY KELLY AND WALTER DIXON (PHONETIC) WERE ORGANIZING TROUBLE DESIGNED TO OVERTHROW EPMG. ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED, ARMAMENTS DELIVERED THROUGH MOMBASA AND SUDAN WERE BEING USED TO EQUIP THREE GROUPS OF DISSIDENT ETHIOPIANS WITH SMALL ARMS, 8000 WEAPONS TO EACH GROUP, ON THREE FRONTS BORDERING ON ETHIOPIA. D-DAY FOR THE PLOT, WHICH CODE-NAMED "OPERATION TORCH," IS SUPPOSED TO BE OCTOBER 1, WITH ASSASSINATIONS PLANNED AGAINST PMAC CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN ABOUT SAME DATE. IN ENSUING CHAOS, ATTACK GROUPS WILL THEN MOVE QUICKLY TO TAKE CONTROL OF CAPITAL. BERHANU SAID HE BROUGHT THIS MATTER TO VISITORS' ATTENTION IN HOPE THAT REPORTS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ADDIS 05463 151433Z

WERE NOT TRUE.

2. POST SAID BOTH HE AND HENZE WERE IN POSITION TO KNOW IF CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS WERE PLANNED, AND HE COULD ASSURE EPMG EMPHATICALLY THAT THERE WAS NO TRUTH IN REPORTS. HENZE ADDED THAT US WOULD HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO REASON TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AGAINST ETHIOPIA, ESPE-

CIALY FROM TERRITORY OF FRIENDLY COUNTRY LIKE KENYA. EITHER REPORT WAS FABRICATION FOR PAY OR INVENTION OF ENEMIES OF US. HE OFFERED TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES IF EPMG COULD PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH DOCUMENTS, SINCE US WAS AWARE OF PREVIOUS INCIDENTS INVOLVING FORCED DOCUMENTS AND DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS. POST SAID TO HIS KNOWLEDGE THERE WERE ONLY TWO US OFFICERS PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO NAIROBI IN CONNECTION WITH F-5 PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH STAFF LIKELY TO INCREASE DURING COMING YEAR. CHARGE CONCLUDED DISCUSSION BY ASSURING BERHANU THAT US HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN INTERFERING IN ETHIOPIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AS WE HAVE OFTEN TOLD EPMG, AND EMBASSY IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE LAST TO WANT TROUBLE IN ADDIS.

3. COMMENT: IN EMBASSY VIEW, NOTABLE ASPECT THIS CONVERSATION WAS NOT SO MUCH STORY ITSELF AS FACT THAT PROMINENT DIRG MEMBER WAS WILLING TO BRING STORY DIRECTLY TO OUR ATTENTION AND ENABLE US TO SHOOT IT DOWN. NOT SO LONG AGO, EMBASSY MIGHT WELL HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT IF FIRST FROM NASTY ARTICLES IN PRESS, WHETHER OR NOT STORY PROVED TO BE TRUE. THIS REPRESENTS DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT IN TONE OF OUR DEALINGS WITH EPMG, AND NO DOUBT WAS INTENDED TO BE INTERPRETED AS SUCH. TIENKEN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 15-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ADDIS05463  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770335-0259  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770962/aaaabzxl.tel  
**Line Count:** 86  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 6b494046-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1268756  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALLEGED US CONSPIRACY AGAINST ETHIOPIA  
**TAGS:** PINS, ET, US, KE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/6b494046-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009